

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN GON

REF: A. MANAGUA 1245 B. MANAGUA 1072

FOR THEBERGE FROM LUERS

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS ASSESSMENT GIVEN REFTEL (A) THAT TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL STEPS IN DEALING WITH GON IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS CABLE ADDRESSES ITSELF BOTH TO OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION IN PREPARATION FOR YATRON SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON MARCH 29 ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND IN RESPONDING TO THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON OUR POLICY POSITION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA IN NICARAGUA AND WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO CONVEY THIS TO GON.

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2. RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO THE FOUR QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 10, REFTEL (A). A) CONCERN YOU VOICED OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS REPORTED IN THE N.Y. TIMES REPRESENTS THE POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION; B) WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMING FROM RESPONSIBLE NICARAGUAN SOURCES (I.E.

THE BISHOPS, THE CAPUCHINS AND MEMBERS OF THE NICARAGUAN

CONGRESS) SHOULD BE IMPARTIALLY INVESTIGATED BY GON;

C) THE GON REFUSES TO CONDUCT OR FACILITATE AN IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION, WE ARE PREPARED PUBLICLY TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER THE FAILURE OF THE GON TO CLEAR ADEQUATELY ITS RECORD IN LIGHT OF SERIOUS CHARGES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE INFO NEEDED FOR SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS, WE APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS ALREADY PROVIDED BY EMBASSY IN ITS MANY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARTICULARLY NOTE VALUE ASSESSMENTS SUCH AS THAT PROVIDED REFTEL B. WE WISH TO EXAMINE, HOWEVER, AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE THE WHOLE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS GET UNDERWAY. DUE TO NUMBER OF REPORTS AND CONCERN EVINced IN RESPECTED CIRCLES -- E.G. BISHOP'S LETTER, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ABUSES ARE OCCURRING AND ARE BEING, AT LEAST CONDONED BY GON. APPARENT RELUCTANCE OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES IS ESPECIALLY DISTURBING IN THIS REGARD.

4. BEFORE MAKING FINAL ASSESSMENT AND DECIDING ON BEST OPTIONS TO PURSUE IN FUTURE, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF AMBASSADOR WOULD PERSONALLY CONTACT MOST RELIABLE AND RESPECTED HIGH-LEVEL SOURCES (I.E. BISHOPS, AND ANY OTHER SOURCES AMBASSADOR DEEMS APPROPRIATE SUCH AS OPPOSITION LEADERS, OR CAPUCHINS) AND OBTAIN THEIR BEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GON AND THEIR JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER SITUATION HAS SHOWN A TREND OF IMPROVEMENT, DETERIORATION, OR REMAINS STATIONARY. WE, HOWEVER, LEAVE BEST SOURCES TO AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION -- SOURCES SHOULD UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING FULLEST AND MOST HONEST ASSESSMENT AS IT WILL INFLUENCE USG DECISIONS ON CORRECT POLICY TO PURSUE TOWARD NICARAGUA IN FUTURE.

5. DUE SHORTNESS OF THIS CONGRESSIONAL HEARING DEADLINE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR'S REPORT ON OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS BY MONDAY OF NEXT WEEK IF POSSIBLE.
CHRISTOPHER

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